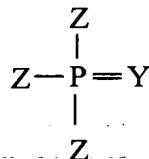


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 1,4,5,9,8,10,11,13, and 14 without prejudice. Please amend claims 2,3,6,7,12, and 15-17 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A composite membrane comprising a polyamide layer on a porous support wherein the polyamide layer retains at least 15 micrograms of phosphorous per gram of polyamide after washing by passing pure water across the membrane for 24 hours at 25°C and a pressure of 70 pounds per square inch, and wherein the phosphorous comprises a phosphorous containing compound having solubility parameter of from about 15 to about 26 $J^{1/2} cm^{-3/2}$, wherein the phosphorous containing compound comprises a compound represented by the formula:



wherein Z is the same or different and is selected from: X, O-P-(X)₂, P(O)-X₂, (P(-X))_m-P-X₂, (O-P(-X))_m-O-P-X₂, (P(O)(-X))_m-P(O)-X₂, and (O-P(O)(-X))_m-O-P(O)-X₂, and wherein at least one Z is selected from an aromatic group, P is phosphorous, O is oxygen, m is an integer from 1 to 5; Y is O or a non-bonded pair of electrons, X is the same or different and is selected from: R and R including one or more oxygen linkage(s), and R is the same or different and is selected from H (hydrogen), and a carbon containing moiety.

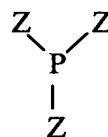
Claims 2-3 (original).

Claims 4-6 (cancelled).

Claim 7(Currently amended). The membrane of Claim 4 1 wherein Y is oxygen and Z is the same or different and is selected from R and R including one or more oxygen linkages; and R is the same or different and is selected from: H and C₁-C₁₂ containing moiety, and wherein at least one R is selected from an aromatic group.

Claims 8-9 (cancelled)

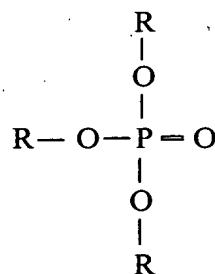
Claim 10 (Currently amended) The membrane of Claim 4 1 wherein Y is a non-bonded pair of electrons and the phosphorous containing compound comprises a compound represented by the formula:



wherein Z is the same or different and is selected from R and R including one or more oxygen linkages; and R is the same or different and is selected from: H and C₁-C₁₂ containing moiety, and at least one R is selected from an aromatic group.

Claims 11-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (Currently amended). The membrane of Claim 7 1 wherein Y is oxygen and Z is the same or different and is selected from R and R including one or more oxygen linkages; and R is the same or different and is selected from: H and C₁-C₁₂ containing moiety and wherein the phosphorous containing compound comprises a compound represented by the formula:



Claim 14. (Cancelled).

Claim 15 -17 (original).